

**Testimony Submitted to
Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan
and the Impact of the Governor's Rescissions
December 09, 2009**

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Elizabeth Kilroy, Director of the Betty Larus Day Center in Hartford Connecticut, and I am testifying on behalf of the 47 members of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers and the clients we serve.

Our centers provide vital services during the day for older adults living in the community at a very cost effective rate, paid through the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly. The news that our much deserved 4.2% rate increase might be taken away was only made worse by the news that the Adult Day Centers would also suffer a 5% cut to our present rate if the Governor's proposed 5% cut to Medicaid provider rates is approved. These cuts will have devastating consequences for our centers, our clients and their families.

We can not ignore the fact that these cuts are proposed on the heels of the 15% co-pay soon to be required of our state funded CT Home Care Program for the Elderly clients. Participants and their families are coming to us since receiving a letter from the State of CT detailing their co-pay requirements, and letting us know they cannot afford these co-pays. Some are working to make family members eligible for Title 19 so that they will not be required to pay. Others have told staff at our centers that they are planning to cut the days they will be able to attend to lower the cost of the co-pay. And then some are planning placement in nursing homes as soon as they can meet the Title 19 requirements. I ask you, is this cost effective for the State of CT?

With the loss of a needed rate increase and now faced with an additional 5% cut to our present rate, it is certain that some centers will be forced to close. Some will choose to close rather than to cut corners on service, or operate dangerously with a skeleton staff to make it affordable to provide services. All of us will struggle.

Please take a serious look at these proposals for cuts and realize the far reaching effects on the frailest of our older adults. What will their alternatives be?